



CERTIFICATION OF CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPROVED SPECIFICATIONS

Purpose

This instruction defines general responsibilities of applicants and Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch personnel for the certification of carcasses for compliance with approved specifications. Procedures for specific locations are described in local MGC Branch Quality Plans and, when applicable, applicants' Product Quality Control (PQC) plans.

Procedures

Graders:

1. When required in the program's specification, ensure the applicant has a valid PQC program in effect for the product to be certified.

Applicant:

1. Evaluate eligible carcasses or sides for compliance with specification requirements.
2. Identify eligible carcasses with a stamped impression of the applicable letters and numbers according to the specification or program for which certification is requested. Identify carcasses on each forequarter and hindquarter, or as specified in approved PQC program documentation.
3. Segregate identified carcasses and present for certification on a stationary rail in an easily accessible area under adequate lighting. In situations where large volumes of certified carcasses prevent segregation in the cooler, Area Supervisors may approve alternate procedures for certification on slow moving chains.

Graders:

1. Identify all carcasses presented for appropriate quality and yield grades.
2. Evaluate carcasses identified by the applicant for compliance with the appropriate characteristics in accordance with official U.S. standards.
3. Identify carcasses found to be in compliance with the applicable specification by placing an impression of the "Accepted as Specified" (metal) stamp partially overlapping the identifying marks on each quarter of the carcass.

4. Record certified products on Form MGC-5-6.

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